July 30th 2023 Memorandum about Public Safety – an open letter to RFK jr.

The next major crisis in the United States is always the one that is not on the radar. You might be asking what could that be... since as of 2023, there are myriad problems in the world being covered in the news and media. So in this regard, it's very hard not to anticipate another crisis or major issue occurring in the near future. As of 2023, there is racial tension in the United States, ongoing geopolitical problems in the Middle East, a war in eastern Europe that could become a nuclear conflict resulting in the loss of millions of lives. There is also an existential crisis regarding the nation, in terms of its national security, economy and unifying doctrine. Religion, social issues, climate, immigration, relationships, foreign policy, economy, law and the survival of the country are all at the forefront of discourse. There are also conversations about the uneven distribution of wealth, with more and more wealth falling into the hands of a few wealthy elites, leading to the decline of the middle class and potentially setting off a class war. Most people would agree that there are so many problems facing the US and the world for that matter. But even as it is apparent that people are as hyper-vigilant as ever, one can still discern that there must something that is being neglected, and that something could ultimately become the next major crisis. This is where foresight and critical thinking comes in. How many people could have predicted back in the 90s when the United States was completely tuned in to what was happening with the Bill Clinton/Monica Lewinsky scandal, that the next major crisis in the United States would involve national security and foreign terror. No one could have predicted such at that time...but it goes to show that the major problems that happen in society are often the ones not being talked about. There was nothing to indicate that such an attack like 9/11 was imminent, at least not from the vantage point of the average American in the late 90s. Of course, there were exceptions; in fact, there are always people who try to warn in advance an impending doom, but in most cases, these archetypes are relegated as conspiracy theorists and mentally ill. When it comes to foreseeing a threat before it comes to pass, especially as it relates to perhaps the most significant crisis in America—that being 9/11, two names stick out in my mind—Bill Cooper and Donald Trump. Bill Cooper warned back in June of 2001 on his broadcast "Hour of the Time" that a major terrorist attack would soon take place in the US and that it would be blamed on Osama Bin Laden. Shortly thereafter, two commercial airlines were flown into the Twin Towers at the World Trade Center. Donald Trump, in his book "The America We Deserve", which was published in 2000, also warned that a terrorist attack which would make the 1993 World Trade Center bombing pale in comparison would soon take place in the United States. He was also correct in his assessment.

The Bush administration, following the 9/11 terror attacks, made national security and fighting Islamic extremism the number one priority for the country. In doing so, Bush kept the nation safe, but consequently was unable to surmise the brewing financial crisis that was about to affect the US economy in what would become another unforeseen crisis. Regulation in the banking and finance industry had been ignored and neglected. Thus, seven years after 9/11, the stock market crashed as a number of investment banking firms collapsed, which forced the United States government to intervene and bail out the banking industry, a move that upended faith in the free markets. Another example is the anti-police social unrest that occurred late in the Obama administration. When Obama first entered office, the major issues were getting US troops out of Iraq, recovering the from the 2008 financial crisis, and dealing with universal healthcare and inner city crime. Police brutality, the eventual public reaction and ethnic hostilities was not on the radar early in Obama's tenure. However, the largely neglected issue concerning excessive use of force by police officers and the lack of accountability applied finally exploded into national consciousness circa 2012—creating a rift among the different social and ethnic classes, as the problem was assigned to having ethnic overtones. Prior to this, the major

problems were foreign terrorism, the Middle East, immigration, climate change, healthcare, and tensions between the rich and poor—as indicated by the occupy movements in New York and Boston. No one could have predicted that the nation was about to become more divided than it has ever been along racial lines, and that the rule of law was going face its biggest backlash since the early 1990s in the wake of the Rodney King beating. But yet as these new problems of ethnic tension and police brutality began to become crystallized into America's national psyche, the public would find itself distracted from another unforeseen problem—a public health crisis. Here we see this dynamic play itself out again. While we are fully attuned into one set of problems, we ultimately ignore another set of potential problems, and this is the main reason why it is hard to prevent the next major crisis. In retrospect, President Trump's tenure began as ethnic problems and police brutality were becoming ingrained as America's most central of issues. On top of that, there were still the other problems being carried over from the previous Bush and Obama administrations—the Middle East, Islamic terror, climate, healthcare, immigration, economic inequalities, the racial division, police brutality, and crime were all issues that the new incoming President Trump had to contend with. However, new unforeseen problems would occur as President Trump's tenure began. The Trump administration began a course of hard-line foreign policy, nearly bringing the nation into a nuclear conflict with North Korea and creating a geopolitical environment that could lead to devastating conflict among major powers. However, Trump would soften his stance and ultimately push for negotiations with geopolitical foes. Still and all, the seeds were sown and now the risk of nuclear conflict weighed on the minds of Americans, much as it did during the Cuban Missile crisis. While all of this is going on—the ongoing problems from the Bush and Obama Administration, along with the new geopolitical problems initiated by the Trump administration, no one was thinking about a public health crisis. It rarely crossed anyone's mind that such could be the next major crisis. In retrospect, one would have predicted that a civil war, border overrun, a major Islamic terror attack, global warming crisis, a stock market crash, or nuclear conflict would have occurred before a global pandemic. But yet in early 2020 a highly contagious coronavirus would expand beyond China's borders and trigger a worldwide pandemic leading to the deaths of millions of people. And now as the world became mired in this new health crisis, all while remaining attuned to the previous problems like immigration, climate change, economic inequality, middle east, racial division, police brutality, crime, economics, etc, most people would ultimately apply little to no awareness about a little-known conflict in Eastern Europe called the Donbas conflict, in which Russia was heavily involved in arming separatists against the sovereign state of Ukraine. Russia eventually launched an invasion of the country in 2022 and set off the largest scale conflict in Europe since World War II.

The lesson here is that no problem is a thing of the past. Believing so only induces an arrogance and complacency that ultimately paves the way for its resurgence. In order to keep problems at bay, society has to constantly remain vigilant about ongoing problems and also problems that could arise in future due to neglect and complacency. With all the calamity being covered in both mass and independent media, it's easy to believe that everything that could become a problem is already being talked about at some level. However, I will contend that America's next major crisis will involve problems regarding the neglect of safety regulations. We have been hearing about accidents in the news, but there hasn't been much discourse about the significance of those incidents being related to a larger overarching problem of neglect when it comes to basic safety protocols. There was the Surfside condominium collapse that occurred in Florida in 2021. There have also been numerous train derailments. The vaccine injury crisis is happening as we speak, but is yet to be considered as part of larger subset of neglect when it

comes to safety protocols. The most recent example of neglect of safety regulations—which could be considered the opening bell for a major safety regulation crisis in the United States—was the implosion of OceanGate's underwater deep sea submersible that killed five people on board. The straw that will break the camel's back, however, will likely be a series of commercial airline crashes that would occur as a result of complacency since nowadays it is very easy for many to assume that airline crashes are a thing of the past.

Another potential crisis to look out for which is not on the radar at the moment is the resurgence of organized crime. This has largely been subdued since the 1990s, but can become a dominant force again, especially as banks tighten lending standards and as many of the country's public safety and national security institutions are being threatened with de-funding. Keep in mind that the Clinton administration reduced the US intelligence-gathering budget in the years leading up to 9/11, believing that there was no need for heightened vigilance. The same de-funding aspect is likely to occur with regard to police and federal agencies, which would lead to the resurgence of organized crime and gangster capitalism.

-written by Anthony of Boston